




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 2 September 2021

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Pegg, Mr D

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (5.05 pm): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion about our colleague, Duncan Pegg, the former member for Stretton. As with the member for Greenslopes, the anecdotes are starting to loosen from the mind and come forward. In the 55th Parliament minority government, I spent two years as the whip. There were many late nights. I remember often, when it was getting close to voting time late at night, I would say to the member for Logan, 'Where's the member for Cook?' He would say, 'He's with Duncan.' I would think, 'This could go a number of different ways.' Generally they would turn up. They would bustle in just before the bars came down. Sometimes Duncan would look a little pale and silent, which was unusual, but he would get there. He never let me down.

I am still getting used to the fact that he will not be with us when we walk into this chamber. I am starting to comprehend that never again will the class of 2015 be all together in one place. On this side of the House the class of 2015 is a pretty tight bunch. Thirty-two Labor people arrived in this parliament for the first time in 2015. Duncan was amongst us. I was reflecting that in Queensland history there has been only three groups of Labor members of parliament like us: 1915, 1989 and 2015. We are an historic group.

However, we know that when we get together in the years to come there will always be a vacant seat at the table. No doubt in the years to come there will be more vacant seats at the table. Duncan has made us recognise that now. That thought and its riposte is pretty well expressed in the following way. At Duncan's funeral at the Gabba there was a song going through my head. It was *Permanent Way* by Charlie Cunningham. The lyrics are—

One light fades

Let another shine in its place

It's just the moving of colours

Thinking of those lyrics today reminds me that we, the class of 2015, will get older and we will fade away, but not Duncan. He will never fade. In our minds he will be always as he left us and that is bright, funny, outrageous and, as the current member for Stretton has said, fearless. That is how he left us and that is how he will always be in our mind's eye.

As the Premier said, Duncan lived a full life in half the time. Those of us from the class of 2015 pay tribute to our bright star, Duncan Pegg. He has shown us how to live life in a blaze of colour before we fade. I hope we can live up to his example. My condolences to Lindsey, Graham and all his family. Thank you for gifting him to us.